

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-SO50-2016-0001 CX**

November 2016

Bray-Reams Grazing Preference Transfer

Location: San Miguel and Montrose Counties

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



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NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2016- 0001 CX

PROJECT NAME: Bray-Reams Grazing Preference Transfer

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Portions of T. 45. N., R. 16 W., Sections 5-8 and 17-20; Portions of T. 46 N., R. 15 W., Sections 25-27, 32, and 34-36. See Map.

APPLICANT: H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP.

BACKGROUND: Grazing preference and base property for Broad Canyon #17199 and Bramier Draw #07235 allotments have been held by Robert and Melissa Bray since 1988. In September 2015 Robert and Melissa Bray submitted an application to have the grazing preference on these allotments, which is attached to their base property, transferred to a base property owned by the H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP.

The transfer of grazing preference is considered administrative in nature and serves to transfer livestock grazing privileges, with the same class of livestock and forage allocation, from one grazing preference holder to another. Approval of grazing preference transfers are outlined in 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to transfer grazing preference from the 3,760 acre base property known as the Taylor Place to a 640 acre base property known in part as the Philadelphia Placer Claim. Approval of this transfer of grazing preference would result in the base property being changed from the Taylor Place, owned by Robert and Melissa Bray, to the Philadelphia Placer Claim, owned by the H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP. Grazing preference for Broad Canyon #17199 and Bramier Draw #07235 allotments would therefore be held by the H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP. The Philadelphia Placer Claim has been found to be a qualified base property, and the H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP has been found to be a qualified applicant.

The grazing allotments involved and the associated grazing preference and season of use are summarized in the table below. The proposed action is compliant with 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

Allotment Name & No.	Percent Public Land	Active AUM's	Suspended AUM's	Permitted AUM's	Permitted Season of Use
Broad Canyon 17199	50	80	0	80	1/1 – 4/2
Bramier Draw 07235	25	140	0	140	12/1 – 2/28

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan:San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: 1985

Decision Number/Page: 14

Decision Language: Continue the routine range management program in the resource areas (issuance of permits and bills, transfers, day to day business, etc).

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number D.1, which allows “approval of transfers of grazing preference”. This is the administrative approval of grazing preference transfer applications.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	<u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	___	<u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	___	<u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in	___	<u>X</u>

- the National Register of Historic Places. ___ X ___
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. ___ X ___
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. ___ X ___
10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. ___ X ___
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. ___ X ___
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. ___ X ___

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Glade Hadden	Archeologist
Melissa Siders	Wildlife Biologist

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact to any National Register or otherwise eligible historic properties. No inventory is required under the provisions of BLM 2110.23B4 and no further work is required.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this action.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact. There are no animal or plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act that are known to inhabit or derive important use of the Broad Canyon #17199 and Bramier Draw #07235 Allotments.

NAME OF PREPARER: Angela LoSasso

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

DATE: 12/3/15

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to approve the administrative transfer of grazing preference on Broad Canyon #17199 and Bramier Draw #07235 allotments to a base property held by H. Neil Reams Family Partnership, LLLP.

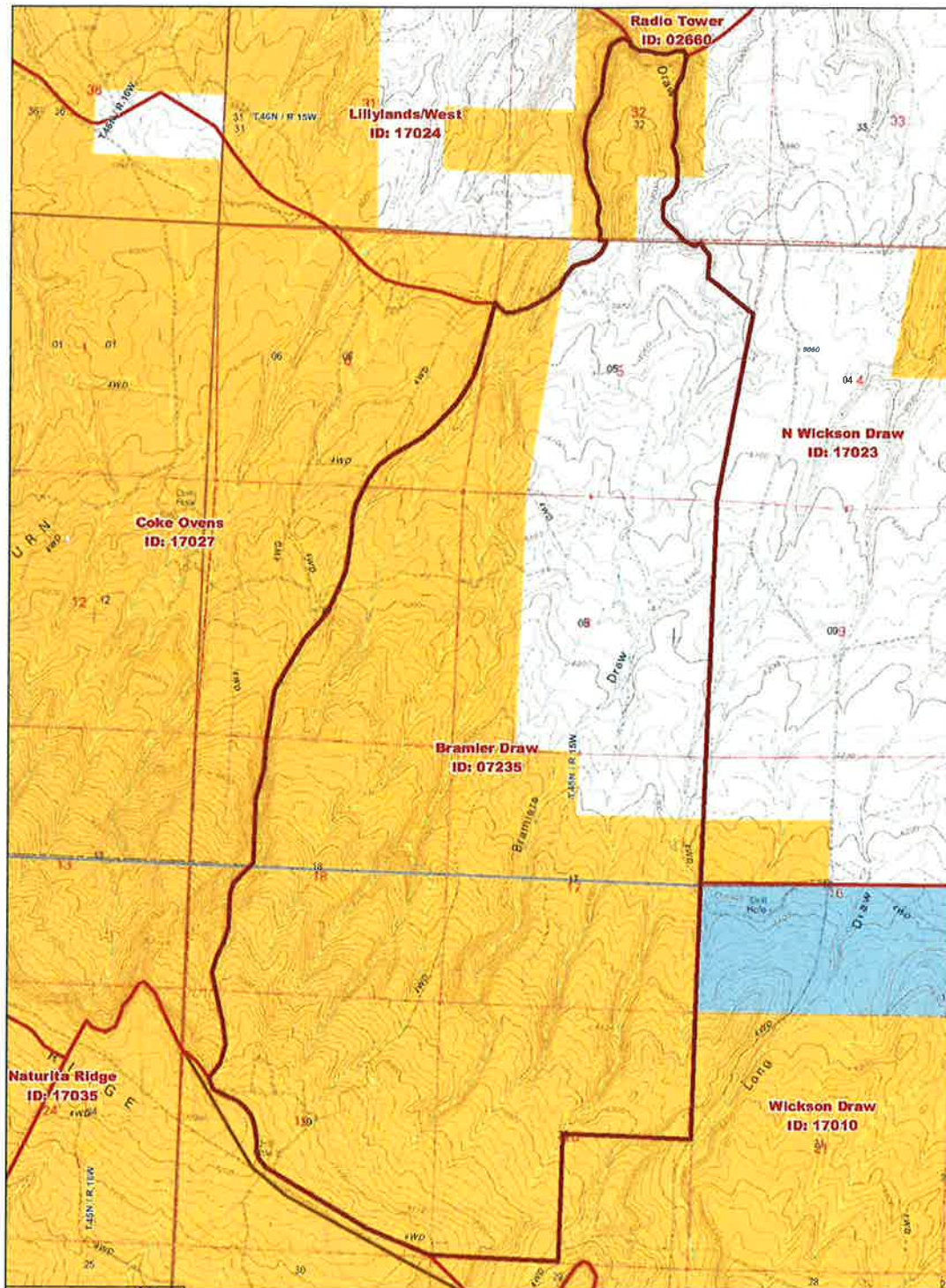
There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a transfer of grazing preference. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____

Sarah Dawson, Acting
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED: _____

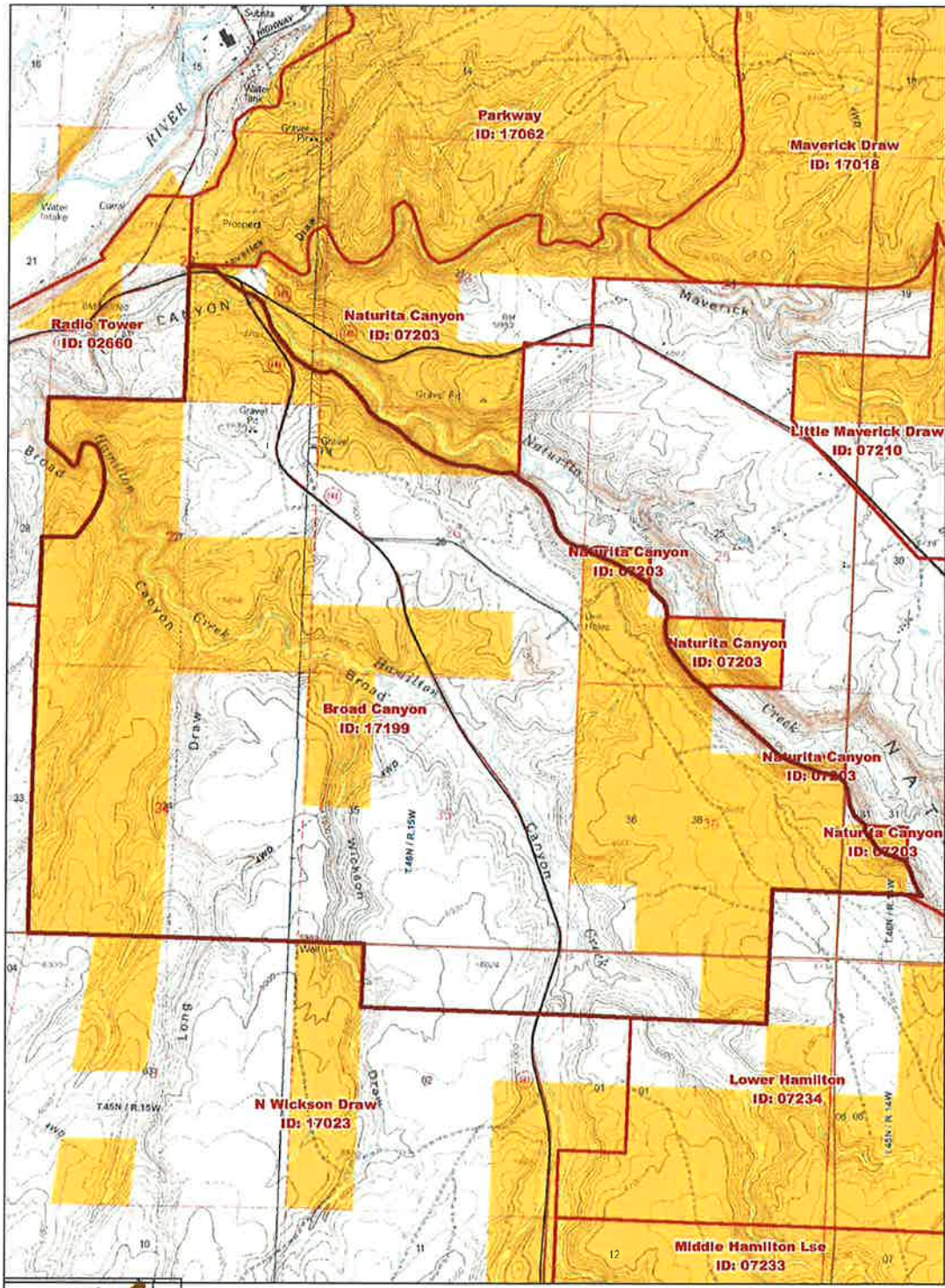
12/16/15



Bramier Draw #07235

1:22,272
1 in = 0.35 miles





Broad Canyon #17199

1:21,150
1 in = 0.33 miles